

ELEVENTH REPORT

OF THE

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

OF

MASSACHUSETTS.

1901.

BOSTON:
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.
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STATE HOUSE BOSTON

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MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

C. B. TILLINGHAST, <i>Chairman</i> , Boston,	.	.	term expires 1905.
Miss MABEL SIMPKINS, Yarmouth,	.	.	term expires 1904.
SAMUEL SWETT GREEN, Worcester,	.	.	term expires 1904.
HENRY S. NOURSE, Lancaster,	.	.	term expires 1903.
Miss E. P. SOHIER, <i>Secretary</i> , Beverly,	.	.	term expires 1902.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

In accordance with the provisions of chapter 347 of the Acts of the year 1890, under which the Free Public Library Commission was organized, the commission herewith presents its eleventh report, covering the calendar year 1900.

THE COMMISSION.

Mr. C. B. Tillinghast has been reappointed for the full term of five years, and designated by the Governor as chairman.

BOOKS SUPPLIED DURING THE YEAR.

The towns of Dracut and Hadley have been supplied with one hundred dollars' worth of books each during the year, under the provisions of chapter 347 of the Acts of 1890; and the town of Eastham has been supplied with a first instalment of books, under the provisions of chapter 233 of the Acts of 1900. The Nantucket Athenæum has been made free, and the town makes an appropriation toward its maintenance.

TOWNS CLASSIFIED AS TO LIBRARIES.

The following classification of the towns, revised to date, shows the free library facilities they now enjoy:—

CLASS 1.

Towns which have libraries owned and controlled by the town and free for circulation to all the people.

Abington,	Clarksburg,	Hancock,
Acushnet,	Clinton,	Hanover,
Adams,	Cohasset,	Hanson,
Agawam,	Colrain,	Hardwick,
Alford,	Conway,	Harvard,
Amesbury,	Dalton,	Hatfield,
Andover,	Dana,	Hawley,
Arlington,	Dartmouth,	Heath,
Ashburnham,	Dedham,	Holbrook,
Ashby,	Deerfield,	Holden,
Ashland,	Dennis,	Holland,
Athol,	Dighton,	Holliston,
Attleborough,	Douglas,	Hopedale,
Auburn,	Dover,	Hubbardston,
Avon,	Dracut,	Hudson,
Bellingham,	Dudley,	Hull,
Belmont,	Dunstable,	Huntington,
Berkley,	East Bridgewater,	Hyde Park,
Berlin,	Eastham,	Kingston,
Beverly,	East Longmeadow,	Lancaster,
Blackstone,	Edgartown,	Lanesborough,
Blandford,	Egremont,	Leicester,
Bolton,	Erving,	Leominster,
Boston,	Essex,	Leverett,
Bourne,	Everett,	Leyden,
Boxborough,	Fall River,	Longmeadow,
Boylston,	Falmouth,	Lowell,
Bridgewater,	Fitchburg,	Ludlow,
Brimfield,	Florida,	Lunenburg,
Brockton,	Foxborough,	Lynn,
Brookfield,	Framingham,	Lynnfield,
Brookline,	Freetown,	Manchester,
Burlington,	Gill,	Mansfield,
Cambridge,	Goshen,	Marblehead,
Canton,	Gosnold,	Marlborough,
Carlisle,	Granby,	Marshfield,
Carver,	Granville,	Mashpee,
Charlemont,	Greenfield,	Mattapoissett,
Charlton,	Greenwich,	Maynard,
Chelmsford,	Groton,	Medfield,
Chelsea,	Groveland,	Medford,
Chester,	Hadley,	Medway,
Chesterfield,	Halifax,	Melrose,
Chicopee,	Hamilton,	Mendon,
Chilmark,	Hampden,	Merrimac,

Middleborough,	Provincetown,	Tewksbury,
Middlefield,	Quincy,	Tolland,
Middleton,	Reading,	Topsfield,
Milford,	Revere,	Townsend,
Millbury,	Richmond,	Truro,
Millis,	Rochester,	Tyngsborough,
Milton,	Rockland,	Tyringham,
Monroe,	Rockport,	Upton,
Montague,	Rowe,	Uxbridge,
Monterey,	Rowley,	Wakefield,
Montgomery,	Royalston,	Wales,
Mount Washington,	Russell,	Walpole,
Nahant,	Rutland,	Waltham,
Natick,	Salisbury,	Warwick,
Needham,	Sandisfield,	Watertown,
New Ashford,	Sandwich,	Wayland,
New Bedford,	Saugus,	Webster,
New Braintree,	Savoy,	Wellfleet,
Newburyport,	Seekonk,	Wendell,
New Salem,	Sharon,	Wenham,
Newton,	Sheffield,	Westborough,
Norfolk,	Shelburne,	West Boylston,
North Adams,	Sherborn,	West Bridgewater,
Northampton,	Shirley,	West Brookfield,
North Andover,	Shrewsbury,	Westford,
North Attleborough,	Shutesbury,	Westminster,
Northborough,	Somerset,	West Newbury,
North Brookfield,	Somerville,	Weston,
Northfield,	Southborough,	Westport,
North Reading,	Southbridge,	West Springfield,
Norwood,	South Hadley,	West Stockbridge,
Oakham,	Southwick,	Westwood,
Orange,	Spencer,	Weymouth,
Orleans,	Sterling,	Whately,
Otis,	Stoneham,	Whitman,
Oxford,	Stoughton,	Wilbraham,
Paxton,	Stow,	Williamsburg,
Peabody,	Sturbridge,	Williamstown,
Pelham,	Sudbury,	Wilmington,
Pepperell,	Sunderland,	Winchendon,
Peru,	Sutton,	Winchester,
Phillipston,	Swampscott,	Windsor,
Plainfield,	Swansea,	Winthrop,
Plympton,	Taunton,	Worcester,
Prescott,	Templeton,	Wrentham. — 270.

CLASS 2.

Towns which have free libraries in which the town has some representation in the management.

Acton,	Franklin,	Malden,
Ayer,	Georgetown,	Methuen,
Barre,	Grafton,	Norton,
Bedford,	Haverhill,	Pembroke,
Belchertown,	Hingham,	Petersham,
Bernardston,	Hinsdale,	Pittsfield,
Braintree,	Holyoke,	Randolph,
Concord,	Lawrence,	Salem,
Cummington,	Lenox,	Springfield,
Danvers,	Lexington,	Warren,
Easthampton,	Lincoln,	Westfield,
Enfield,	Littleton,	Woburn. — 36.

CLASS 3.

Towns in which there are free libraries to which the town appropriates money, but is not represented in the management.

Amherst,	Great Barrington,	Scituate,
Ashfield,	Harwich,	Southampton,
Boxford,	Lee,	Stockbridge,
Brewster,	Monson,	Tisbury,
Chatham,	Nantucket,	Ware,
Cheshire,	Northbridge,	Wellesley,
Cottage City,	Palmer,	Westhampton,
Duxbury,	Plymouth,	West Tisbury,
Gardner,	Princeton,	Worthington. — 27.

CLASS 4.

Towns in which there are free libraries which have no connection with the town.

Barnstable,	Fairhaven,	Raynham,
Becket,	Gloucester,	Rehoboth,
Billerica,	Hopkinton,	Wareham,
Buckland,	Ipswich,	Yarmouth. — 14.
Easton,	Marion,	

CLASS 5.

Towns which have the free use of public libraries in other places.

Newbury,	Newburyport Public Library,
Washington,	Becket Athenæum. — 2.

CLASS 6.

Towns having no free public library privileges.

Gay Head,	Lakeville,	New Marlborough,	Norwell. — 4.
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Free libraries have been established during the year in Hadley and Dracut, and the Nantucket Athenæum has been made free to all the people of Nantucket.

WITHOUT FREE LIBRARY PRIVILEGES.

The following table shows the population and valuation of the four towns of the State that are still without free public libraries. The entire population of these towns, according to the last census, was 3,973, or less than one-seventh of one per cent. of the entire population of the State. There are association libraries in two of these towns.

TOWNS.	Population.	Valuation.
Gay Head,	173	\$25,977 00
Lakeville,	958	550,436 00
New Marlborough,	1,282	575,749 00
Norwell,	1,560	856,074 00
Total,	3,973	-

ADDITIONAL STATE AID TO SMALL LIBRARIES.

The following law was passed by the Legislature of 1900 :—

[CHAPTER 233.]

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS TO PURCHASE BOOKS FOR THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF CERTAIN TOWNS.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows :

The board of free public library commissioners may expend, in such amounts and at such times as they deem expedient, a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, for the purchase of books for every free public library owned and controlled by a town the valuation of which does not exceed six hundred thousand dollars: *provided*, that the town shall have complied with all laws relative to the maintenance of such library, and that the trustees of the library shall provide, to the satisfaction of the board, for the distribution of books in different parts of the town where such distribution is necessary, by means of

branch libraries or deliveries, and for practical and effective means of rendering the library useful to the teachers and scholars of the public schools in such town. [*Approved April 13, 1900.*]

Applications by the trustees of free public libraries affected by the above law will be considered in the order in which they are received. All such applications must be accompanied by a full statement of the condition and usefulness of the library, specifying the whole number of books loaned for home reading during the last year recorded, the amount appropriated from the town treasury (giving dog tax) for library support during each of the last two financial years, and a description of the methods used, if any, to help the public schools and afford library privileges to outlying neighborhoods.

The purpose of the Commonwealth in the passage of this act was to widen and strengthen the usefulness of the libraries to the home and the school, to bring good books as near as possible to every fireside, and to enrich and amplify the curriculum of the schools. It is expected that the towns will cordially co-operate with the commission in the effort to fully realize this purpose, and seek to do all that has not already been done to bring the library in living touch with the life of the household and the school. In furtherance of this purpose, it is the intention of the commission to furnish mainly such books as are attractive, interesting and instructive, especially to young people, and only a limited quantity of fiction.

The following towns are entitled to the benefit of this act:—

Alford,	Chilmark,	Granville,
Ashby,	Clarksburg,	Greenwich,
Auburn,	Colrain,	Halifax,
Berkley,	Dana,	Hampden,
Berlin,	Dunstable,	Hancock,
Blandford,	East Longmeadow,	Hawley,
Bolton,	Eastham,	Heath,
Boxborough,	Egremont,	Holland,
Boylston,	Erving,	Huntington,
Brimfield,	Florida,	Lakeville,
Burlington,	Gay Head,	Lanesborough,
Carlisle,	Gill,	Leverett,
Charlemont,	Goshen,	Leyden,
Chester,	Gosnold,	Mashpee,
Chesterfield,	Granby,	Mendon,

Middlefield,	Paxton,	Shutesbury,
Middleton,	Pelham,	Southwick,
Monroe,	Peru,	Sunderland,
Monterey,	Phillipston,	Tolland,
Montgomery,	Plainfield,	Truro,
Mount Washington,	Plympton,	Tyngsborough,
New Ashford,	Prescott,	Tyringham,
New Braintree,	Richmond,	Wales,
New Marlborough,	Rochester,	Warwick,
New Salem,	Rowe,	Washington,
Norfolk,	Royalston,	Wendell,
North Reading,	Russell,	West Stockbridge,
Oakham,	Rutland,	Whately,
Orleans,	Sandisfield,	Windsor.
Otis,	Savoy,	

GIFTS TO, AND NOTES FROM, THE LIBRARIES.

The following information relative to individual libraries has been gathered from all available sources, and gives in detail some idea of the general interest in library work and the kindly aid given the libraries in many ways:—

AMESBURY. The new library building upon Main Street is under contract to be ready for public use May 1, 1901. It is two-storied, 62 by 37 feet, with a fire-proof stack wing 40 by 37 feet, having a capacity for 45,000 volumes. The construction is of moulded cream-colored brick with limestone trimmings, the interior finish being of oak throughout. The newspaper room will occupy a part of the basement. On the first floor are the delivery, reference, reading, children's and librarian's rooms. The second story is given to the art and natural history rooms. The cost of the building is \$22,000; of the lot, \$5,500. The residuary estate of the late Mary A. Barnard amounts to \$32,468.77, of which \$10,000 was bequeathed as a permanent fund, the income to be devoted to the purchase of books, and the balance was left as a building fund. The Hannah C. Hubbard bequest of \$5,000 for a building is also now available, and the town has voted the sum of \$5,000 for the same purpose.

ASHBY. Mr. Edwin Chapman, a Boston merchant whose home is in Ashby, has bought a lot and will in the spring erect upon it a library building, to cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000, as a gift to the town. Mr. Chapman's business partner, Mr. Amos F. Adams, in 1895 gave his native town, Chelmsford, its beautiful library.

BARNSTABLE. The Free Library Association of Hyannis has received \$75 for the purchase of books, being the net proceeds of an entertainment given for that purpose. This library club's building serves as a delivery station of the Sturgis Free Library, receiving twenty-five books at a time, exchangeable every six weeks.

BOSTON. Mrs. Lewis, who a few years ago gave the public library a valuable collection of Americana, which, in honor of her husband, is called the John A. Lewis Library, has added to her benefaction the sum of \$200 for the purchase of certain rare books and manuscripts relating to American history. The late Abram Cutter, bookseller, of Charlestown, bequeathed to the public library the sum of \$4,000 and his private library. Judge Mellen Chamberlain supplemented his previous generous gifts to the library by the bequest of his collection of autographs, photographs, genealogical, personal and family papers, besides many books and pamphlets bearing the autographs of distinguished original owners. By the will of Daniel Sharpe Ford, late editor and owner of the "Youth's Companion," the Boston Public Library receives a legacy of \$6,000. Andrew Carnegie has promised an annual gift of \$100 to be used in the purchase of books for the increase of the Galatea collection, relating to the social, educational and industrial progress of woman. Mrs. Rufus W. Griswold of Bangor, Me., has given a collection of letters belonging to her husband, including many from literary celebrities with whom he had correspondence. Col. T. W. Higginson presented to the library an interesting collection of letters written by John Brown. On March 26 a bust of Wendell Phillips, by Martin Millmore, was presented by the Wendell Phillips Memorial Association.

CANTON. Mr. Augustus Hemenway, one of Canton's most prominent citizens, has selected and purchased an admirable lot for a public library building, and is having plans prepared, with the intention of beginning the erection of the structure very soon.

CONWAY. The Field Memorial Library was incorporated by the Legislature of 1900 for the purpose of administering the gift of Mr. Marshall Field. The act provides for a self-perpetuating board of five members, which may hold property to the amount of \$200,000. The corner-stone of a building, which is to cost about \$100,000, and serve as a memorial to John and Fidelia Nash Field, the parents of the donor, was laid with due ceremony on the 4th of July last.

DRACUT. The Dracut Library, just established and opened for use on December 8, is placed in a well-lighted upper room of a school-house, which has been reconstructed and tastefully furnished for reading room and library purposes, lighted with gas and heated by a furnace. The Molly Varnum Chapter, D. A. R., Mrs. H. M. Thompson, regent, has announced its intention to give the library a collection of books relating to the American Revolution, as a memorial to the wife of Brig.-Gen. James Mitchell Varnum, a native of Dracut, who did honorable service in the war for independence. The library is open on Saturdays. It has at the start over 800 volumes upon the shelves. The chairman of the trustees is Mr. S. R. Kitchen, and the librarian, who is also secretary of the trustees, is Miss Amy Goodhue.

DUDLEY. The new library building is located in the village of Chaseville. The town voted \$2,500 for the building, and the Stevens Linen Works gave the site. The construction is of brick with marble trimmings, the structure being one-storied above the basement.

DUXBURY. Mrs. George W. Wright proposes to build a fire-proof stack room as an addition to the library; or, if it should be decided to be more feasible, to substitute a more permanent structure for the present building, which is a wooden dwelling adapted for library purposes. The present edifice, with the grounds about it, was Mrs. Wright's gift to the town in 1889, as a memorial to her son, George Buckham Wright.

FALMOUTH. Mr. D. Wheeler Swift of Worcester, a native of West Falmouth, whose gifts to the West Falmouth Library last year amounted to \$550, has this year fitted up and furnished a room in the basement of the library building for social meetings, at a cost of between \$300 and \$400, and added the sum of \$600 to the permanent funds of the library association.

FREETOWN. The village of East Freetown, being seven miles distant from the town library, derived little benefit therefrom. An association was therefore organized in 1896 for the establishment of a circulating library. The following year this library was made free, the town having voted an appropriation for its support. It now possesses over 400 books, and receives \$50 annually from the town treasury. The management is by five directors, chosen by the association.

GLOUCESTER. A substantial brick, two-storied building, attractively furnished, has been erected and offered to the city by Rev. J. J. Healy of St. Anne's Catholic Church. It adjoins the parochial residence, which is centrally located. Over the entrance is a

tablet inscribed "Free City Library." Father Healy asks the city to accept the building, guaranteeing the perpetual support of a free public library therein.

GRAFTON. The late Arthur B. McLellan, a Boston lawyer, has left a contingent bequest of \$2,500 to the free library in his native town of Grafton, to be used for the purchase of books, to form what will be known as the "McLellan collection."

GRANVILLE. An attractive library building is nearing completion in Granville. It includes also a lecture hall and convenient rooms for social meetings. The construction is of cream-colored brick above a stone basement, with terra-cotta and Longmeadow stone trimmings. The Hon. Milton B. Whitney of Westfield, a native of Granville, contributed \$5,000 for the building, and about \$6,000 was collected by a ladies' club. The library is located in Granville Corner, the business centre of the town, but provision will be made for delivery of books at East and West Granville.

GROVELAND. By the burning, on April 26, of the business block in which a room was leased for library purposes, about two-thirds of the books, 2,200, were destroyed. The card catalogue and some furniture were saved, and there was an insurance of \$1,000, which was satisfactorily adjusted. The library was reopened in temporary quarters July 7, and has now been returned to its former location, the burned building having been reconstructed, with 1,300 volumes upon its shelves. Capt. J. G. B. Adams, the late Sergeant-at-Arms of the Massachusetts Legislature, has remembered his native town in his will by a bequest of \$5,000 for the benefit of its public library. This does not become available, however, until after the decease of his widow.

HALIFAX. A few of the residents in the northern part of Halifax have privileges in the new Cobb Library at Bryantville. (See Pembroke.)

HANOVER. The will of John Curtis of Wellesley, who died April 17, 1900, contains a bequest of \$15,000 for the erection of a library building in Hanover. The gift of 2,000 volumes by Mr. Curtis in 1888 was the foundation of the Hanover Public Library, and it was named in his honor, the John Curtis Free Library. About a year ago he added \$4,000 to his previous benefaction to the institution.

HANSON. A library building has been presented to the neighborhood of Bryantville by Mrs. Rozilla Cobb. (See Pembroke.)

HAYERHILL. The public library building has been improved by extensive alterations and repairs, amounting in some rooms to

reconstruction, thus making possible the establishment of a special children's department and a newspaper reading room, besides adding other much-needed conveniences.

HOLYOKE. The new library building stands upon one side of a spacious square, the other side of which is reserved for an art museum. The land, valued at \$100,000, was given to the city by the Holyoke Water Power Company. The material of construction is Indiana limestone and light-colored brick, the roof being tiled. The plan is T-shaped, with a basement and two floors above. The main entrance on the centre of the front façade is from a portico supported by six stone columns, and leads into a central rotunda open to the roof, around which at the second story is a balcony. The two wings contain on the main floor periodical and reading rooms, and on the floor above art rooms. There is a lecture room over the central stack floors, which are three in number. The children's room is in the basement and has a special side entrance. It is hoped that the building will be ready for occupancy next summer. The estimated cost is \$83,000, which amount has been raised by subscription. The principal donors were: William Skinner, \$10,000; William Whiting, \$10,000; J. Pierpont Morgan, \$10,000; Julius H. Appleton, \$5,000; Farr Alpaca Company, \$5,000; Parsons Paper Company, \$3,000; Edward P. Bagg, \$2,000.

HUBBARDSTON. The late Jonas G. Clark, founder of Clark University in Worcester, left a bequest of \$500 to the Hubbardston Library. Mr. Clark was a native of Hubbardston, and the library building, erected in 1875, was his gift to the town.

LEICESTER. During the past two years Hon. John E. Russell has given the trustees of the free library \$250 each year, upon condition that it should be opened to the public during the forenoons of each day except Sunday; his object being to give greater opportunity for the use of the reading and reference rooms at those hours of the day, when they are free from the bustle often inseparable from the management of the circulating department.

LUNENBURG. The public library has an unknown benefactor, who annually contributes \$100 to its funds for the purchase of such books as the trustees would not feel authorized, for prudential reasons, to buy with the income derived from taxation.

LYNN. The beautiful new building of the public library was opened for use April 2. It is of gray Indiana limestone, richly decorated, in Corinthian style of architecture, with columns, marble

stairways and mosaic floors. The total cost was about \$241,000, the chief contribution being the \$80,000 bequest of Mrs. William Shute. The stack room provides room for 200,000 volumes. Charles W. Bubier of Providence has presented to the library a copy in Carrara marble of the Venus of Milo, as a memorial to his wife.

MILTON. The late Roger Wolcott has left by will \$2,000 to the trustees of the Milton Public Library.

NANTUCKET. The Athenæum opened its doors to the public as a free library early in April. During nearly three-quarters of a century, its useful life as a proprietary library, it has had but two librarians, Prof. Maria Mitchell until 1856, and Miss Sarah F. Barnard, the present incumbent.

NATICK. The Morse Institute Library is a beneficiary, to the amount of \$5,000, by the will of Mrs. Maria Hayes of Natick. Her bequest is to constitute a perpetual fund, the income being devoted to the running expenses of the institute.

NEWBURYPORT. The gifts of 1900 to the public library amount to \$34,000. The bequest of Edward S. Moseley of Newburyport is \$5,000; that of Abram Cutter of Charlestown, \$4,000. John Rand Spring of San Francisco, a native of Newburyport, presented the library with \$20,000, which has been invested by the city, yielding 4 per cent. interest. Hon. William C. Todd, who endowed the reading room with a fund of \$10,000, has added \$5,000 to that endowment.

NORTH ADAMS. Mr. William Arthur Gallup has equipped in a very tasteful and substantial manner the children's room in the Houghton Library.

NORTH ANDOVER. By the will of J. D. W. French, a Boston merchant, the North Andover Public Library receives all of his private library except the works upon agriculture, which go to the Massachusetts Agricultural College at Amherst.

OXFORD. Mr. Charles Larned of Boston, a native of Oxford, has offered to provide for the erection of a library building in that town, as a memorial to his mother, the cost of the building to be borne two-thirds by him and one-third by the town; the entire cost to be not more than \$18,000, exclusive of the land. A suitable lot has been offered as a site, by a citizen of the town.

PEMBROKE. A new library was formally dedicated at Bryantville, in December, as a memorial to the late Sheriff Joseph Cobb. It is the gift of his widow, Mrs. Rozilla Cobb of Pembroke, to those dwelling within a two-mile limit of the locality, which includes portions of Pembroke, Hanson and Halifax. Mrs. Cobb's bene-

faction also includes 1,200 volumes of popular literature, but as yet no provision has been made for library support and increase. The management is in the hands of three trustees, appointees of the donor. The cost of the building was \$3,000.

PEPPERELL. The Laurence Library building is completed and ready for occupancy. It is the gift of Charles F. Laurence, a New York banker, native of Pepperell, who at his decease left to the town \$100,000, together with his private collection of books and works of art, for the establishment and support of the free library and an art gallery. Half of the bequest he devoted to the purchase of a lot and the erection of a brick and iron building, \$25,000 to the furnishings and books and \$25,000 as a permanent maintenance fund.

PLYMOUTH. The Loring reading room is a new and tasteful building, presented to the Plymouth Cordage Company and its operatives at North Plymouth by Augustus Peabody Loring, in memory of his father, Caleb William Loring, who was president of that corporation from 1890 until his death in 1897. The collection of standard authors in choice bindings is also the gift of the Loring family. As a large percentage of the operatives are of German and Italian descent, many of the best books in those languages fill shelves assigned to them. The reading room is open every day in the week, and its privileges are free to all operatives of the company and their families.

QUINCY. Mr. Albert Crane of Stamford, Conn., a member of the family which presented the beautiful Crane Memorial Library building to Quincy in 1880, has recently bought a lot of land adjoining the library site for presentation to the city. This increases the Washington Street frontage of the library lot by 50 feet, and makes needed extension of the building possible.

SALEM. By the will of Walter S. Dickson of Salem the sum of \$10,000 is given unconditionally to the public library, and it is also to receive one-fifth of the remainder of his estate, after payment of specific legacies.

SANDWICH. The public library has received, for the first time during its existence, a legacy. This bequest of \$500 is from the late Miss Martha Hoxie, and is for the purchase of books. Mr. George Marston has given the library about 100 volumes.

SOMERVILLE. A spacious wing has been added to the public library, giving room for new departments and more ample floor area for the old. The whole building has undergone thorough repair, and been made more attractive as well as convenient. The chief

new features are the children's and the newspaper rooms. Mrs. Harriet Minot Laughlin, daughter of Isaac Pitman, the first librarian of the Somerville Public Library, has added to previous generous gifts the sum of \$4,000. This is to be invested as a permanent fund, the income being devoted to the purchase of works of art, "illustrative, decorative or otherwise." This is to be known as the Isaac Pitman library fund.

SPRINGFIELD. The early death of David Dwight Wells of Norwich, Conn., will hasten the division of the large estate left by his father, David Ames Wells, who died two years ago; and, as this his only son died without issue, after the payment of about \$20,000 in legacies, two-thirds of the remaining estate is to be divided equally between Harvard University, Williams College and the Springfield City Library.

SUNDERLAND. A library building, of cream-colored pressed brick with gray sandstone trimmings, was completed in November. The construction and rich furnishing are largely due to the generosity of Mr. John Long Graves, a native of Sunderland, whose contributions amount to about \$10,000. The foundation of the building fund, however, was the gift of \$1,000 several years ago from the heirs of Mrs. Judith Montague Cook. The town bought the site for the building, besides appropriating the sum of \$500, and the fund was further increased by a popular subscription.

SWANSEA. The new library building, for the erection of which Hon. Frank S. Stevens left a bequest of \$10,000, was dedicated on September 10, with the customary public exercises. This is the third public building in Swansea erected through the generosity of Mr. Stevens.

WARWICK. Mrs. Sarah R. Drury of Troy, N. Y., left a bequest of \$1,000 for the benefit of the Warwick Library, creating what is to be known as the "Smith fund," in memory of Rev. Preserved Smith, Jr., pastor of the Unitarian Church in Warwick from 1814 to 1844. Mrs. Drury was his daughter.

WATERTOWN. The free public library will receive a bequest of \$1,000 from the estate of the late Benjamin H. Pierce of Watertown. The gift is without restrictions.

WAYLAND. The new library building was opened for book delivery on December 1. It is an attractive edifice, in colonial style, constructed of red and black brick with granite trimmings, and cost about \$28,000, which was the amount of the bequest received from the estate of Warren Gould Roby, who also gave the site. The most notable features of the plan are the chil-

dren's room and a beautiful circular reading room with lofty ceiling and tastefully ornate decoration. The rooms are lighted with acetylene gas.

WESTFIELD. The Athenæum has received a bequest of \$5,000 from the late Addison C. Rand, president of the Rand Drill Company of New York, who was born in Westfield, the gift being without conditions. Miss Mary H. Bisbee resigned the librarianship in June, 1899, being succeeded by Mr. George Stockwell. Two delivery stations have been established during the past year, and a bulletin is printed monthly.

WESTON. The new library building was opened for use, without dedicatory exercises, Nov. 17, 1900. It is a pleasing structure of brick and stone, without very marked architectural characteristics, being in effect a single story above a high, well-lighted basement. There is a special room for children, and the books are arranged in alcoves freely accessible to the public. The town is proud of the fact that this library building is not the gift of individuals, but has been paid for by town meeting appropriations. The cost of the building was about \$40,000. Mr. Herbert Merriam has presented \$1,000 to the library as a permanent fund, the income from which shall be used in the purchase of new books. His father, Mr. Charles Merriam, was one of the earliest benefactors of the library.

WESTWOOD. Through the generosity of a public-spirited citizen, Westwood is soon to have a library building. It will bear the name of its donor, Mr. Howard Colburn.

WEYMOUTH. The Tufts Library has received \$2,500 from Amos W. Stetson of Boston, as a memorial to his mother, Susannah Hunt Stetson, a native of Weymouth. The income of the fund is to be used for books.

WILLIAMSTOWN. The citizens of the village of Blackinton will build a hall and library building, to cost about \$7,000, most of the funds for which have been collected. The Blackinton Manufacturing Company is expected to give the site.

WOBURN. Mr. Jonathan Thompson, lately deceased, has made the city of Woburn his residuary legatee, devoting, after a few bequests, the remainder of his large estate to the erection and maintenance of a suitable building for use as a public library, and including reading rooms, a hall for lectures, etc. Mr. Thompson also gives the site for this structure, a valuable lot in North Woburn, adjoining his homestead. The building is to be styled the Eunice Thompson Memorial Library, in memory of his wife, who died about ten years ago.

WORCESTER. The free public library received a bequest of \$100 from the late Rev. Henry W. Brown. The board of directors, by the advice of the librarian, made a separate fund of this gift, to be known as the "Henry W. Brown fund." It is very gratifying to have friends of an institution remember it in a small way when their means are small, showing that they have grateful hearts.

THE WOMAN'S EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON.

The commission has during the past three years gladly acknowledged the valuable aid it has received, in its endeavors for the extension of library privileges in the small towns, from the efficient and inspiring volunteer services of the Woman's Education Association. During the year just past the labors of this association have met with even more than the usual gratifying success, and have won substantial victories in very unpromising fields. It has now in circulation 35 travelling libraries, among the following towns:—

Acushnet,	Gosnold,	Rochester,
Alford,	Hancock,	Rowe,
Bedford,	Heath,	Russell,
Brimfield,	Huntington,	Rutland,
Chilmark,	New Marlborough,	Sandisfield,
Clarksburg,	Monterey,	Somerset,
Colrain,	Oakham,	South Yarmouth,
Cumington,	Otis,	Warwick,
East Freetown,	Paxton,	West Stockbridge,
Florida,	Pelham,	Windsor.
Goshen,	Plainfield,	

The circulation for the year 1900 was 4,000 volumes, or double that of 1898. Of these travelling libraries, 6 are restricted to special subjects: Shakespeare, English literature, Venice, Rome, Florence and Italian art. The demand for this high order of reading matter has been especially encouraging. Not only has the assistance rendered by the association met with proper appreciation and received warm testimonials of thankfulness from most of the towns benefited, but several of them seem to have been awakened to a desirable sense of their duty of self-help, as shown by an increased expenditure for the better housing, equipment and care of their free libraries, and for the establishment of delivery stations in schools or outlying settlements.

The association has also twelve pictorial collections in constant circulation, illustrating the following subjects: a trip across the continent, Hawaii, two of the Spanish war, four of beasts and birds, portraits of authors, New York, London, Japan. These collections have formed the basis of 113 different exhibits in 89 towns. Their use has not been confined to libraries,—the pictures being hung in town halls, vestries, private houses and especially often in school-rooms. The entertainment they have furnished has called forth numerous expressions of gratitude and praise, some of which seem almost extravagant to those whose daily familiarity with the achievements of modern pictorial art prevents them from suspecting how much interest such exhibits awaken in a retired rural community. The association lately entered upon a new venture in library work, the need for which has long been under discussion,—the publication of lists of new books, recommended to managers of small libraries for purchase. Two such lists have been printed and distributed to 200 of the smaller libraries of the State; the first included 50 volumes, the second 90. Through the generosity of some members of the association it has also been enabled to aid several needy libraries with gifts of books. Visits by a special committee have been made to Leverett, Shelburne Falls, Warwick, Dalton, North Adams, Clarksburg, Savoy, Cummington, Windsor, New Marlborough, Boylston. With two exceptions the visitors found little occasion for other than favorable comment upon the management and prospects of the local libraries; but such visits, as well as all past experience of those engaged in library extension, teach that educational missionary work is needful in the outlying districts of our rural towns.

THE LIBRARY ART CLUB.

Since its incorporation under Massachusetts statutes last May the Library Art Club has grown more rapidly than ever before in popular esteem, and is gradually extending its area of usefulness. It now has a membership of 88, of which 63 are Massachusetts libraries, and possesses 34 pictorial collections. Its exhibits have not only given pleasure and instruction to thousands, especially in our country towns, but have induced

many to visit and use the free libraries who had never before done so. They have visibly elevated the standard of reading in many a community, and have ministered to refinement and taste.

PURCHASE OF BOOKS FOR SMALL LIBRARIES.

The commission during the past year, as heretofore, has made many purchases of books for the smaller town libraries. Though this is not one of the specified duties of the commission, it has proved of great advantage, for the reason that the towns get lower prices and therefore more books for their money, and the commission is able to advise them relative to the best books to purchase for their money. As a matter of fact, most of these towns would prefer to leave the selection of the books entirely to the commission, but that entails a burden the Board cannot well assume.

THE GENERAL WORK OF THE COMMISSION.

The incidental and advisory functions of the commission are of a widely varied character, involving every incident and detail of library administration. Advice is sought upon many matters which, though they may seem trifling in themselves, contribute to the successful development and the widest usefulness of our libraries. Information is sought relative to the initial steps to be taken for the formation of a library; the raising of funds; the organization and rules; the selection and purchase of books; the best methods of classification and labeling; the methods of cataloguing; the preparation and printing of class lists and bulletins; the selection of sites for buildings; the plans and details as well as the materials for construction; the heating, lighting and ventilation; the external ornamentation and interior finish and arrangement; the method and material of shelving; the manifold conveniences for the economic and systematic administration; the best methods of making the library useful and accessible to all the people; the equipment and management of branches; the cheapest and best methods of distributing the books to the people of all sections of the town; the relations of the library to the teachers and the public schools; the administration of gifts and bequests; the selection and compensation of librarians; the relative

appropriation for the maintenance of libraries in different towns; and other details, almost without number. Minor difficulties and disagreements are brought to the commission for solution or settlement, and the advice given generally finds ready acceptance. This work of the commission, frequently of a confidential nature, cannot find place in a formal report or be tabulated in statistics, yet it is of great usefulness to those whose patient and unselfish endeavor has done and is doing so much to broaden and strengthen the educational influence of our libraries.

It is to the general interest of the people, manifested in so many helpful ways, that the universality and utility of our system are due. The disposition to render the library useful to every home is increasing in a most gratifying degree. The distribution of books by the simple but effective means of small depositories, the schools, and other agencies specially adapted to the needs of different localities, is the most hopeful indication of the future.

When the library books are found in every home, the work of distribution approaches the ideal. It then remains, by constant and unwearied watchfulness and care, to keep the supply fresh, inspiring and pure.

C. B. TILLINGHAST,
MABEL SIMPKINS,
SAMUEL SWETT GREEN,
HENRY S. NOURSE,
ELIZABETH P. SOHIER,

Commissioners.

APPENDIX I.

A ROLL OF HONOR.

LIST OF GIVERS OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BUILDINGS IN MASSACHUSETTS.

GIVERS OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDINGS IN MASSACHUSETTS.

ACTON,	Gift of Hon. William A. Wilde of Malden.
AMESBURY,	Bequest of Mary A. Barnard.
AMHERST, NORTH,	Mainly the gift of citizens.
ANDOVER,	Gift of citizens.
ARLINGTON,	Gift of Mrs. Maria C. Robbins of Brooklyn, N. Y., as a memorial of her husband.
ASHBURNHAM,	Gift of George F. Stevens.
AYER,	Gift of Frederick F. Ayer of New York.
BAENSTABLE,	Gift of Hon. William Sturgis of Boston.
BARRE,	Gift of Henry Woods of Boston.
BECKET,	Gift of Miss Blanche Perkins, as a memorial of her parents.
BELCHERTOWN,	Bequest of John Francis Clapp.
BERNARDSTON,	Gift of Hon. Henry W. Cushman.
BILLERICA,	Gift of Mrs. Joshua Bennett.
BLANDFORD,	Gift of Mrs. Josephine E. S. Porter of Hartford, as a memorial of her son, Edgar Sheffield Porter.
BOURNE,	Gift of Miss Emily H. Bourne, as a memorial of her father, the Hon. Jonathan Bourne.
BRAINTREE,	Gift of Gen. Sylvanus Thayer.
BROOKFIELD,	Gift of William A. Banister of New York.
CAMBRIDGE,	Gift of Frederick H. Rindge of Los Angeles.
CARLISLE,	Gift of Mrs. Joanna Gleason of Sudbury.
CHARLEMONT,	Gift of E. R. Goodnow and other citizens.
CHATHAM,	Gift of Hon. Marcellus Eldredge.
CHELMSFORD,	Gift of Amos F. Adams of Boston.
CHELSEA,	Gift of Hon. Eustace C. Fitz.
CONCORD,	Gift of William Munroe.
CONWAY,	Gift of Hon. Marshall Field of Chicago, as a memorial of his parents.
CUMMINGTON,	Gift of William Cullen Bryant.
DALTON,	Gift of the Crane family.
DANVERS,	Gift of George Peabody.
DARTMOUTH, SOUTH,	Gift of John H. Southworth of Springfield.
DEDHAM,	Bequests and gifts of citizens.
DEERFIELD,	Bequest of Mrs. Esther Dickinson.
DENNIS,	Bequest of Jacob Sears.
DUXBURY,	Gift of Mrs. George W. Wright, as a memorial of her son, George Buckham Wright.
EAST BRIDGEWATER,	Gift of Cyrus Washburn of Wellesley.
EASTHAMPTON,	Gift of Mrs. Emily G. Williston.
EASTON,	Gift of Hon. Oliver Ames and Mrs. Sarah L. Ames.
ESSEX,	Bequest of T. O. H. P. Burnham of Boston.
EVERETT,	Gift of Albert M. Parlin, as a memorial of his son.
EVERETT (Glendale),	Bequest of William Shute.
FAIRHAVEN,	Gift of Henry H. and Abbie P. Rogers, as a memorial of their daughter, Millicent.
FITCHBURG,	Gift of Hon. Rodney Wallace.
FREETOWN,	Gift of Mrs. E. Florence Hathaway Crowell, as a memorial of her father, Hon. Guilford B. Hathaway.
GARDNER,	Gift of children of Levi Heywood.
GEORGETOWN,	Gift of George Peabody.

GLOUCESTER, . . .	Gift of Samuel E. Sawyer.
GRANVILLE, . . .	Gift of Hon. M. B. Whitney and others.
GROTON, . . .	Partly the gift of Mrs. Charlotte A. L. Sibley.
HARVARD, . . .	Mainly the gift of natives of the town.
HATFIELD, . . .	Bequest of Samuel H. Dickinson.
HAVERHILL, . . .	Gift of Hon. E. J. M. Hale and other citizens.
HINGHAM, . . .	Gift of Hon. Albert Fearing.
HINSDALE, . . .	Gift of citizens.
HOLDEN, . . .	Gift of Hon. Samuel C. Gale of Minneapolis.
HOLYOKE, . . .	Gift of citizens.
HOPEDALE, . . .	Gift of Joseph B. Bancroft, as a memorial of his wife, Mrs. Sylvia Thwing Bancroft.
HOPKINTON, . . .	Gift of natives and residents of the town.
HUBBARDSTON, . . .	Gift of Jonas G. Clark of Worcester.
IPSWICH, . . .	Gift of Capt. Augustine Heard.
KINGSTON, . . .	Bequest of Frederic C. Adams.
LANCASTER, . . .	Mainly the gift of Nathaniel Thayer and his sons.
LAWRENCE, . . .	Gift of Mrs. N. G. White and Miss E. A. White.
LEICESTER, . . .	Gift of Lory S. Watson, Dr. Pliny Earle, David E. Merriam and others.
LENOX, . . .	Gift of Mrs. Adeline E. Schermerhorn.
LEXINGTON, . . .	Gift of Mrs. Maria Cary.
LINCOLN, . . .	Gift of George Grosvenor Tarbell.
LITTLETON, . . .	Gift of children of William Stevens Houghton, as a memorial of their father.
LUDLOW, . . .	Gift of heirs of Charles T. Hubbard.
LYNN, . . .	Gift of Mrs. Elizabeth M. Shute, as a memorial of her husband.
MALDEN, . . .	Gift of Hon. Elisha S. Converse and his wife, as a memorial of their son.
MANCHESTER, . . .	Gift of Thomas Jefferson Coolidge.
MANSFIELD, . . .	Gift of Mrs. Elizabeth F. Noble and others.
MARBLEHEAD, . . .	Bequest of Benjamin Abbot of Boston.
MARION, . . .	Gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Taber of New Bedford.
MARSHFIELD, . . .	Bequest of Seth J. Ventress.
MEDFORD, . . .	Gift of Thatcher Magoun.
METHUEN, . . .	Gift of heirs of David Nevins.
MIDDLETON, . . .	Bequest of Hon. Charles L. Flint.
MONSON, . . .	Gift of Mrs. Carrie R. Dale, as a memorial of her father, Horatio Lyon.
NATICK, . . .	Bequest of Miss Mary Ann Morse.
<i>South Natick,</i> . . .	Bequest of Oliver Bacon.
NEWBURYPORT, . . .	Gift of citizens.
NEWTON, . . .	Gift of J. Wiley Edmunds and other citizens.
NORTH ADAMS, . . .	Gift of Hon. Albert C. Houghton, as a memorial of his brother, Andrew Jackson Houghton.
NORTHAMPTON, . . .	Bequest of John Clarke, supplemented by other gifts and by the city.
NORTHAMPTON, . . .	Bequest of Hon. Charles Edward Forbes.
<i>Florence,</i> . . .	Gift of Alfred T. Lilly.
NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH, . . .	Gift of children of Edmund I. and Lucy N. Richards, as a memorial of their parents.
NORTHBOROUGH, . . .	Gift of Cyrus Gale.
NORTH BROOKFIELD, . . .	Mainly the gift of Erasmus Haston.
NORTHFIELD, . . .	Gift of Elijah M. Dickinson of Fitchburg.
NORTH READING, . . .	Gift of Mrs. Charles L. Flint.
NORTON, . . .	Gift of Mrs. Eliza B. Wheaton.
NORWOOD, . . .	Gift of George H. Morrill and wife, as a memorial of their daughter, Miss Sarah Bond Morrill.
ORLEANS, . . .	Built partly by subscriptions.
PEABODY, . . .	Gift of George Peabody.
PEMBROKE, . . .	Gift of Mrs. Rozilla Cobb.
PEPPERELL, . . .	Bequest of Charles F. Lawrence of New York.
PETERSHAM, . . .	Built mainly by subscriptions.

PITTSFIELD, . . .	Gift of Hon. Thomas Allen.
PRINCETON, . . .	Gift of Edward A. Goodnow, as a family memorial.
PROVINCETOWN, . . .	Gift of Hon. Nathan Freeman.
QUINCY, . . .	Gift of heirs of Thomas Crane.
RANDOLPH, . . .	Gift of heirs of Col. Royal Turner.
REHOBOTH, . . .	Gifts of Darius Goff of Pawtucket, R. I.
ROCHESTER, . . .	Partly the gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Leonard of New Bedford.
SALEM, . . .	Gift of heirs of Capt. John Bertram.
SCITUATE, NORTH, . . .	Gift of Silas Peirce of Boston, as a memorial of his wife.
SHIRLEY, . . .	Built mainly by bequest of Mrs. Betsey D. Hazen.
SOUTHBRIDGE, . . .	Gift of Holmes Ammidown of New York.
SPENCER, . . .	Gift of Richard Sugden.
SPRINGFIELD, . . .	Gift of the City Library Association.
STERLING, . . .	Gift of Edward Conant of Worcester, as a memorial of his daughter, Elizabeth Anne.
STOCKBRIDGE, . . .	Gift of Hon. John Z. Goodrich.
STOW, . . .	Gift of Miss Belinda Lull Randall, for estate of John Witt Randall.
STURBRIDGE, . . .	Bequest of George B. Hyde of Boston, as a memorial of his father, Joshua Hyde.
SUDBURY, . . .	Bequest of John Goodnow of Boston.
SUNDERLAND, . . .	Gift of John Long Graves and others.
SWANSEA, . . .	Gift of Hon. F. S. Stevens.
UXBRIDGE, . . .	Gift of Hon. Edward C. Thayer of Keene, N. H.
WARE, . . .	Gift of Hon. William Hyde and others.
WARREN, . . .	Gift of Nathan Richardson and others.
WATERTOWN, . . .	Built by Hollis H. Hunnewell and others.
WAYLAND, . . .	Bequest of Warren Gould Roby.
WELLESLEY, . . .	Gift of Hollis H. Hunnewell.
WEST BROOKFIELD, . . .	Gift of Charles Merriam of Springfield.
WESTFORD, . . .	Gift of Hon. John Varnum Fletcher.
WEYMOUTH, . . .	Gift of Quincy Tufts and his sister, Miss Susan Tufts.
<i>South Weymouth,</i> . . .	Bequest of John S. Fogg.
WILLIAMSBURG, . . .	Bequest of Stephen Meekins.
<i>Haydenville,</i> . . .	Gift of Miss Anna Hayden.
WOBURN, . . .	Bequest of Charles Bowers Winn, as a memorial of his father.
WRENTHAM, . . .	Gift of heirs of Hon. Josiah J. Fiske.
YARMOUTH, . . .	Gift of Nathan Matthews of Boston.

APPENDIX II.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY LAWS
OF
MASSACHUSETTS.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY LAWS OF MASSACHUSETTS.

1882.

[Public Statutes, chapter 40.]

LAW LIBRARIES.

SECTION 1. Law library associations heretofore organized in any county except Suffolk shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter relating to such corporations.

SECT. 2. The attorneys at law admitted to practice in the courts of the commonwealth, and resident in a county for which there is no law library association, may organize themselves by the name of the Law Library Association for such county; and, when so organized, shall be a corporation for the purpose of holding and managing the law library belonging to the county, and may adopt by-laws for that purpose, subject to the approval of the justices of the superior court.

SECT. 3. The clerk of the courts in any county in which no such association has been organized may, upon the application of seven attorneys at law resident therein, call a meeting for the purpose of such organization by posting up notifications thereof in some convenient place in any court-house of the county; which meeting shall be held during the term of the superior court commencing next after ten days from the time of posting up such notification. The clerk shall preside at such meeting until a clerk of the association is chosen.

SECT. 4. The officers of such an association shall be a clerk, treasurer, and librarian, and their duties shall be defined by the by-laws.

SECT. 5. Every inhabitant of a county in which such association is organized may use the books in the library, subject to such regulations as may be prescribed by the association with the approval of the superior court.

TOWN AND CITY LIBRARIES.

SECT. 9. Any town or city may establish and maintain a public library therein, with or without branches, for the use of the inhabitants thereof, and may provide suitable rooms therefor, under such regulations for its government as may from time to time be prescribed by the inhabitants of the town or by the city council.

SECT. 10. Any town may at a legal meeting grant and vote money for the establishment, maintenance, or increase of a public library therein, and for erecting or providing suitable buildings or rooms therefor; and may receive, hold, and manage any device, bequest, or donation for the establishment, increase, or maintenance of any such library.

SECT. 11. The city government of a city or the selectmen of a town, in which there is a public library owned and maintained by such city or town, may place in such library, for the use of the inhabitants, such books, reports, and laws as have been or may be received from the commonwealth.

APPROPRIATION OF MONEY FOR LIBRARIES.

Section 10 of chapter 27 of the Public Statutes provides that the towns may at legal meetings grant and vote such sums as they judge necessary for maintaining any library therein to which the inhabitants are allowed free access for the purpose of using the books on the premises, and for establishing and maintaining a public reading-room, in connection with and under the control of the manager of such library.

THE DOG TAX.

Section 107 of chapter 102 of the Public Statutes provides that the money received for dog licenses and refunded to the towns shall be expended for the support of public libraries or schools.

DEFACING BOOKS, PAPERS, ETC.

Section 79 of chapter 203 of the Public Statutes provides that whoever wilfully and maliciously or wantonly and without cause writes upon, injures, defaces, tears or destroys a book, plate, picture, engraving or statue belonging to a law, town, city or other public library, shall be punished by a fine of not less than five nor more than fifty dollars, or by imprisonment in the jail not exceeding six months.

1883.

An Act to prevent the wilful detention of books, newspapers, magazines, pamphlets or manuscripts of certain libraries.

[Acts of 1883, chapter 77.]

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Whoever wilfully and maliciously or wantonly and without cause detains any book, newspaper, magazine, pamphlet, or manuscript belonging to a law, town, city or other public or incorporated library, for thirty days after notice in writing, from the librarian of such library, given after the expiration of the time which

by the regulations of such library, such book, newspaper, magazine, pamphlet, or manuscript may be kept, shall be punished by a fine of not less than one nor more than twenty-five dollars, or by imprisonment in the jail not exceeding six months.

SECT. 2. The notice required by the foregoing section shall bear upon its face a copy of this act.

SECT. 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage. [*Approved March 24, 1883.*]

An Act for the better protection of property of certain libraries.

[Acts of 1883, chapter 81.]

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Section seventy-nine of chapter two hundred and three of the Public Statutes is hereby amended so as to read as follows:—Whoever wilfully and maliciously or wantonly and without cause writes upon, injures, defaces, tears or destroys a book, plate, picture, engraving, map, newspaper, magazine, pamphlet, manuscript, or statue belonging to a law, town, city or other public or incorporated library, shall be punished by a fine of not less than five nor more than fifty dollars, or by imprisonment in the jail not exceeding six months.

SECT. 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage. [*Approved March 24, 1883.*]

1885.

An Act to protect persons using public libraries from disturbance.

[Acts of 1885, chapter 225.]

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Whoever wilfully disturbs persons assembled in a public library or reading room connected therewith by making a noise or in any other manner during the time in which such library or reading room is open to the public, shall be punished by imprisonment in the jail not exceeding thirty days, or by fine not exceeding fifty dollars. [*Approved May 12, 1885.*]

1888.

An Act concerning the election and the powers and duties of trustees of free public libraries or of free public libraries and reading rooms, in towns.

[Acts of 1888, chapter 304.]

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Every town which raises or appropriates money for the support of a free public library or free public library and reading room that is owned by the town, shall at its annual meeting, or at a legal town meeting appointed and notified for that purpose by the selectmen, elect

a board of trustees, except in cases where such library has been or may be acquired by the town, in whole or in part, by some donation or bequest containing other conditions or provisions for the elections of its trustees or for its care and management, which conditions have been accepted and agreed to by vote of the town.

[Section 2 amended by chapter 112, Acts of 1889.]

SECT. 2. Said board of trustees shall consist of any number of persons divisible by three not exceeding nine in all which the town may decide to elect, one-third thereof to be elected annually and to continue in office for three years, except that the town shall first elect one-third of the trustees for one year, one-third for two years and one-third for three years, and thereafter one-third the number annually for the term of three years. No person shall be ineligible to serve upon said board of trustees by reason of sex. Such board of trustees shall be elected by ballot, and shall organize annually by the choice of a chairman and secretary from their own number.

SECT. 3. If any person elected a member of the board of trustees, after being duly notified of his election in the manner in which town officers are required to be notified, refuses or neglects to accept said office, or if any member declines further service, or from change of residence or otherwise, becomes unable to attend to the duties of the board, the remaining members shall in writing give notice of the fact to the selectmen of the town, and the two boards may thereupon, after giving public notice of at least one week, proceed to fill such vacancy until the next annual town meeting; and a majority of the ballots of persons entitled to vote shall be necessary to an election.

SECT. 4. The trustees so elected by the town shall have the entire custody and management of the library and reading-room and all property owned by the town relating thereto; and all money raised or appropriated by the town for its support and maintenance, and all money or property that the town may receive by donation from any source, or by bequest, in behalf of said free public library and reading-room, shall be placed in the care and custody of the board of trustees, to be expended or retained by them for and in behalf of the town for the support and maintenance of its free public library and reading-room, in accordance with the conditions of each or any donation or bequest accepted by the town.

SECT. 5. In every town which shall, by a majority of the votes cast at its annual town meeting or at a legal town meeting appointed and notified for that purpose by the selectmen, so direct, the board of trustees shall, in addition to the officers named in section two of this act, elect from among their own number a treasurer, who shall give a

bond to the town similar to the bond given by the town treasurer, for such an amount and with such sureties as may be satisfactory to the selectmen; and until a town directs otherwise the town treasurer shall act as treasurer of the board of trustees.

SECT. 6. The trustees shall make an explicit report to the town at each annual town meeting of all their receipts and expenditures, and of all the property of the town in their care and custody, including a statement of any unexpended balance of money they may have, and of any bequests or donations they may have received and are holding in behalf of the town, with such recommendations in reference to the same as they may deem necessary for the town to consider.

SECT. 7. Nothing in this act shall be construed to interfere with library associations, nor with any library that is or may be organized and managed under special act of the legislature.

SECT. 8. This act shall take effect upon its passage. [*Approved May 4, 1888.*]

1889.

An Act relating to the election, powers and duties of trustees of free public libraries and reading rooms in towns.

[Acts of 1889, chapter 112.]

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section two of chapter three hundred and four of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and eighty-eight is hereby amended by striking out in lines two and three the words “not exceeding nine in all,” so as to read as follows: *Section 2.* Said board of trustees shall consist of any number of persons divisible by three which the town may decide to elect, one-third thereof to be elected annually and to continue in office for three years, except that the town shall first elect one-third of the trustees for one year, one-third for two years and one-third for three years, and thereafter one-third the number annually for the term of three years. No person shall be ineligible to serve upon said board of trustees by reason of sex. Such board of trustees shall be elected by ballot, and shall organize annually by the choice of a chairman and secretary from their own number: *provided*, any town having a free public library which has heretofore elected a board of trustees to manage the same consisting of a number divisible by three, and has heretofore elected annually one-third of said board for three years, may continue to elect annually one-third of said board, and the trustees in office shall hold their offices until the term for which they were elected shall expire unless the town shall vote otherwise. [*Approved March 14, 1889.*]

1890.

An Act to promote the establishment and efficiency of free public libraries.

[Acts of 1890, chapter 347.]

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The governor with the advice and consent of the council shall appoint five persons, residents of the Commonwealth, who shall constitute a board of library commissioners. The governor shall designate the chairman thereof. One member of said board shall be appointed for the term of five years, one for four years, one for three years, one for two years and one for one year; and thereafter the term of office of the commissioners shall be five years. All vacancies on said board, whether occurring by expiration of term or otherwise, shall be filled by the governor with the advice and consent of the council.

SECT. 2. The librarian or trustees of any free public library may ask said board for advice in regard to the selection of books, the cataloguing of books and any other matters pertaining to the maintenance or administration of the library; and the board shall give such advice in regard to said matters as it shall find practicable. The board shall make a report of its doings to the general court in January of each year, and fifteen hundred copies of said report shall be printed as one of the public document series.

SECT. 3. Said board is hereby authorized and directed to expend, upon the application of the board of library trustees of any town having no free public library owned and controlled by the town, a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars for books for any such town entitled to the benefits of this act; such books to be used by said trustees for the purpose of establishing a free public library, and said commissioners shall select and purchase all books to be provided as aforesaid.

SECT. 4. No town shall be entitled to the benefits of this act until such town has accepted the provisions hereof at a regularly called town meeting, and has elected a board of library trustees as provided in chapter three hundred and four of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, and until said trustees shall have provided, in a manner satisfactory to the board of commissioners, for the care, custody and distribution of the books furnished in accordance with this act.

SECT. 5. Any town accepting the provisions of this act shall annually appropriate from the dog tax, or shall otherwise annually provide for the use and maintenance of its free public library, a sum

not less than fifty dollars if its last assessed valuation was one million dollars or upward, or a sum not less than twenty-five dollars if said valuation was less than one million and not less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, or a sum not less than fifteen dollars if said valuation was less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

SECT. 6. No member of the board of commissioners shall receive any compensation, but the board may expend a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars annually for clerical assistance and incidental and necessary expenses in the discharge of its duties; and all sums expended under the provisions of this act shall be paid from the treasury after the bills therefor have been approved by the board and sent to the auditor of the commonwealth, who shall certify to the governor and council the amount due as in case of all other bills and accounts approved by him under the provisions of law.

SECT. 7. This act shall take effect upon its passage. [*Approved May 28, 1890.*]

1892.

[Acts of 1892, chapter 255.]

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

The board of library commissioners may expend the sum of one hundred dollars for books for the free public library of any town whose valuation does not exceed six hundred thousand dollars, which maintained a free library before the passage of chapter three hundred and forty-seven of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety, and which has fully complied or hereafter fully complies with the provisions of said act.

1900.

An Act to authorize the board of free public library commissioners to purchase books for the free public libraries of certain towns.

[Acts of 1900, chapter 233.]

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

The board of free public library commissioners may expend, in such amounts and at such times as they deem expedient, a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, for the purchase of books for every free public library owned and controlled by a town the valuation of which does not exceed six hundred thousand dollars: *provided*, that the town shall have complied with all laws relative to the maintenance of such library, and that the trustees of the library shall provide, to the satisfaction of the board, for the distribution of books in different parts of the town where such distribution is necessary, by means of branch libraries or deliveries, and for practical and effective means of rendering the library useful to the teachers and scholars of the public schools in such town. [*Approved April 13, 1900.*]

